

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 2, and 9-20 have been canceled.

Claims 3-5 have been amended.

The amendment to Claims 3-5 is supported by original Claims 1-5.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the present amendments.

REMARKS

Claims 3-8 are pending in the present application.

The rejections of: (a) Claims 1 and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Sugimoto et al and (b) Claims 2 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sugimoto et al, are obviated by amendment.

Applicants make no statement with respect to the propriety of these grounds of rejection and in no way acquiesce to the same. Solely to expedite allowance of the subject matter of allowable Claim 3, Applicants have rewritten the claims to depend from Claim 3. Accordingly, Claims 4-8 are free from the disclosure of Sugimoto et al and allowable for the same reasons as Claim 3.

Withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is requested.

The objection to Claim 1 is moot in view of the cancellation of Claim 1 and the incorporation of this claim into Claim 3 together with the proper remedial amendment. Withdrawal of this ground of objection is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

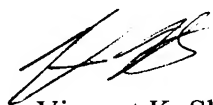
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